Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 22 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Thursday 21 Dec 2023 at 14:02

Confidence: High confidence for windy conditions until Boxing Day with periods of gales for the first few days, wet conditions on Friday and Saturday may make walking conditions poor with spells of poor visibility.

Headline for Friday 22 Dec 2023: Blustery showers may group to give longer spells of rain, a few brighter spells too, feeling cold on the higher tops in strong winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 22 Dec 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy rain showers (night)	Heavy rain showers (night)	Heavy rain showers (night)	Heavy rain showers	Heavy rain showers	Heavy rain showers	Heavy rain showers (night)	Heavy rain showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
40%	40%	40%	60%	60%	30%	30%	30%

Forecast for Friday 22 Dec 2023

Weather: Frequent blustery or squally showers will move through the Lake district on Friday, mostly cloudy in between showers and quite dull. Showers may cluster together to give longer spells of rain particularly in the northwest of the national park. Very gusty winds around heavier showers. Showers perhaps turning to more persistent rain through the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40%, low cloud associated with showers throughout the day.

Low cloud and visibility: Scattered or broken cloud above 500m can be expected throughout the day, cloud may clear briefly out with showers but as showers gather it will become more overcast. Visibility will be moderate or good out with showers but turning poor in showers temporarily.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 22 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	43/54 W	39/49 W	39/49 W	48/61 W	46/60 W	45/59 W	42/55 W	42/55 W	46/62 W
600	31/43 W	29/40 W	28/38 W	38/53 W	37/52 W	35/51 W	33/48 W	34/49 W	38/55 W
300	12/38 NW	12/35 NW	10/34 NW	16/45 W	17/46 NW	17/45 NW	16/43 W	16/42 W	18/47 W
Valley	10/33 W	9/29 W	8/28 W	15/39 W	16/42 W	15/37 W	15/38 W	16/37 W	17/39 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-7	2/-7	2/-5	3/-5	3/-5	3/-5	3/-5	3/-5	4/-4
600	4/-3	4/-3	4/-2	5/-2	5/-2	5/-2	5/-2	5/-2	6/-1
300	6/2	6/2	6/3	7/3	7/3	7/3	7/3	7/3	7/3
Valley	8/6	8/6	9/6	9/6	9/6	9/6	9/6	9/6	10/6
Freezing Level*	1200m	1300m	1400m	1400m	1400m	1400m	1400m	1500m	1600m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Feeling cold on the fells in the very strong winds, especially gusty around any showers.

Forecast for Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Weather: Light rain expected for much of the day on Saturday with strong westerly winds continuing. The best conditions will be found in the east. Perhaps some drier conditions during the afternoon but remaining mostly cloudy and quite dull.

Maximum wind: Westerly 30-35mph gusts 40-50mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30%, a lot of persistent low cloud particularly in the west.

Low cloud and visibility: Perhaps some cloud free tops during the morning but low cloud tending to form especially around western fell tops, becoming broken with bases above 500m. Visibility will be moderate or poor for much of the day.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 10 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 5 Celsius.
Freezing level: Above all summits.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Location: Birkhouse Moor summit 718m at 11:00 Full report: Thursday was similar to Wednesday, albeit with less rain but far stronger winds which was the main feature of the day. Indeed, the assessor erred on the side of caution (and common sense!) and turned back at Birkhouse Moor summit (718m) where the readings were taken. The cloud cleared occasionally giving a view of Helvellyn's summit and the Edges showing that no snow has fallen at altitude overnight. Thus, as far as walkers are concerned, the Lakeland fells and paths remain completely free from snow and ice. No snow at all was seen today but on Wednesday there were some isolated patches of snow above 800m at the top of steep north facing slopes. Owing to their location they represent no hazard to walkers. Even Helvellyn's large east face (frequently the last spot in the Lakes to hold snow) is now free of snow. Despite the milder weather in the valleys, the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) at altitude remains below zero - minus 5 degrees C at 11am at 700m in the wind. Thus, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. For those interested in the stats, owing to the strength of the wind the assessor did not hang around the summit for very long and there were definitely stronger gusts to that recorded. Temperature: plus 4.9 C, Maximum wind speed 58.4 mph, Wind chill: minus 4.4 C, Average wind speed: 45.8 mph

Issued at: 1402 on Thu 21 Dec 2023

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